



Expedition: Maya, Aztec & Inca

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

My level: ☐ Explorer ☐ Investigator ☐ Legend

Mission: Travel across 2,000 years and thousands of miles to visit three great civilizations. Enter each city, examine the evidence, and figure out how each civilization adapted to its geography and what it achieved.

Big question: How did the Maya, Aztec, and Inca adapt to their environments, and what did they achieve?

★

Warm-up: Solve the geography

How would you farm in each place?

A steep mountain

A shallow lake

Key vocabulary	
Civilization	A complex society with cities, government, specialized jobs, and records.
City-state	An independent city with its own ruler.
Tribute	Payments of goods to a ruling power.
Chinampa	An Aztec floating garden.
Quipu	Knotted cords the Inca used for records.

1

Box 1

Enter Tenochtitlan

In the simulator: Enter Tenochtitlan and examine all 3 objects.

Bernal Díaz compares the city to "enchantments" in a legend. What does this tell you?

☐ The Spanish were amazed by how advanced the city was ☐ The city was imaginary

☐ The Spanish thought the city was small

2

Box 2

Visit all five sites

In the simulator: Enter all 5 sites and collect at least 12 pieces of evidence.

What did you notice?

3 Box 3

Compare the civilizations

Complete the comparison chart from your journal.

Civilization	Geography	One achievement
Maya		
Aztec		
Inca		

4 Box 4

Adaptation

Which geography problem did each solution solve?

Sort: Terraces · Chinampas · Cenotes · Causeways · Rope suspension bridges

Steep mountains	A lake	No rivers

Misconception check

Which statement is TRUE?

- ☐ Millions of Maya people still live in Mexico and Central America today ☐ The Maya disappeared completely
☐ The Maya, Aztec, and Inca all lived at the same time in the same place

5 Box 5

Greatest achievement (CER)

Which achievement was the most impressive? Support your claim with evidence from the expedition.

Claim

Evidence (quote or fact)

Reasoning Start: "This was impressive because..."

6 Box 6

Legend: whose words? 🏆 Legend only

Both primary sources on this expedition were written by Spanish visitors. Quote one and explain what perspective might be missing.



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How did the Maya, Aztec, and Inca adapt to their environments, and what did they achieve?

Completion code:

Shown on the last screen of the simulator.